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A

GENUINE and SUCCINCT

NARRATIVE

OF

A ſcandalous, obſcene, and exceedingly profane

LIBEL,

ENTITLED,

An ESSAY on WOMAN,

AS ALSO, OF

Other POETICAL PIECES,

CONTAINING

The moſt atrocious BLASPHEMIES.

Submitted to the Candor of the PUBLIC,

By the Rev. Mr. KIDGELL, *A. M.*

Rector of *Horne* in *Surry*; Preacher of *Berkley* Chapel, and Chaplain to the Right Hon. the Earl of MARCH and RUGLEN.

——— In Vitium LIBERTAS incidit et vim
Dignam LEGE regi. ——— HOR.

J. Kidgell

LONDON:

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TO

The violated L A W S,

The abuſed LIBERTY,

AND THE

Inſulted RELIGION of our Country,

This authentic NARRATIVE

IS INSCRIBED.

MDCCLXIII.

TO

The violated LAWS,

The abused LIBERTY,

AND THE

Insulted RELIGION of our Country,

The authentic NARRATIVE

IS INSCRIBED.

A GENUINE and SUCCINCT

NARRATIVE, &c.

FROM a Perſuaſion of the extenſive Utility of every ſocial Virtue, and a perfect Senſe of Obligation to the moſt unexceptionable Government in the World, I am conſtrained to requeſt the Attention of the Public to a Narrative, by which I hope to deſerve the Thanks of GOOD MEN of every Circumſtance and Degree.

BEING about the Beginning of *July* laſt, at the Houſe of Mr. *William Faden* Printer in *Fleet-Street*, he ſhewed me a Part of a certain Proof-Sheet of a Poem, entitled, AN ESSAY ON WOMAN, which had a few manuſcript Corrections in the Margin.

This he communicated to me voluntarily, without any Manner of Application from me, or Knowledge of his Deſign.

As the ſaid Proof-Sheet contained a Specimen of the moſt horrid Impiety and Profaneneſs that had ever yet diſgraced our Religion, our Language, or our Laws, I had the Curioſity to deſire to know the Origin of ſo daring an Inſtance of the Abuſe of both the Liberty of the Preſs, and the Protection of the Government.

Mr. Faden, who did not think it impertinent in me to enquire, unreſervedly informed me, that the ſaid Proof-Sheet had been *accidentally* brought to his Houſe, by one of his Journeymen, who being induced, by the Singularity of its Contents, to communicate it to his Fellow-Workmen in the Office, it very naturally fell into the Hands of Mr. *Faden*.

As I am convinced that Mr. *Faden*, with whom I have been many Years acquainted, had a ſincere

Abhorrence

Abhorrence of the Publication of ſo obſcene and infamous a Libel, I propoſed to him an Endeavour to defeat the Influence and Succeſs of it, in a Series of Letters, which ſhould be communicated to the Public, by the Aſſiſtance of a daily Paper, of which Mr. *Faden* is the Printer.

The Propoſal being agreed to on his Part, it remained to obtain, if ſuch a Thing was poſſible, the Remainder of the Work by the ſame Hand which had produced this extraordinary Fragment of it; a Performance, which I believe and hope, is without its Equal in the World.

But reflecting more deliberately upon a Deſign, which I had formed in my Temerity, of publiſhing a Series of Letters, in which it would have been unavoidably requiſite for me to repeat the groſſeſt Indelicacies; and conſidering my perſonal Inability to maintain ſo ſingular an Argument, and fearing, really, the Conſequence of an Attempt to expoſe to public Scorn and Cenſure, a Work,

of

of the Progreſs of which I had ſo imperfect an Account to give, I came to a Reſolution of adviſing with a RIGHT HONOURABLE PERSONAGE, of whoſe Benevolence and Candour I was ſufficiently convinced, and whoſe Chaplain I have the Honor to have been almoſt from the Day of my Ordination.

MY Lord, who was extremely offended at the ſcandalous Indecency of the ſaid Proof-Sheet, which I laid before him, aſſured me of his Aſſiſtance in any Deſign which I might think expedient to diſcountenance ſo ſhameful an Undertaking; and ſaid he would acquaint me of the Reſult of his maturer Thoughts at ſome favourable Opportunity.

IN a few Days after this Converſation, I received his Lordſhip's Commands by an Expreſs which was ſent me to my Houſe in *Surry*, to attend his Lordſhip; when he was pleaſed to give me to underſtand, that proper Meaſures would infallibly be taken, for the Diſcovery and the Puniſhment of ſo avowed an Enemy to Society, as the Author of

ſo

ſo prophane a Libel. As thoſe Meaſures by which this iniquitous and ſhameful Work was diſcovered in a more ample Manner, are now UNDER CONSIDERATION, it is hoped that the Public will excuſe an abſolute Declaration from me who the AUTHOR of it is, 'till the Law has taken farther Cognizance of the Matter.

IN the mean Time I think it abſolutely requiſite, in Vindication of my own Honour, Veracity, and good Intention, to ſubmit to the ſerious Peruſal of the injured Public, a ſuccinct Account of this abominable Work, as conſiſtently with Decency as I can.

THIS *Eſſay on Woman* is a Parody on Mr. *Pope's Eſſay on Man*, almoſt Line for Line, printed in red.

THE Frontiſpiece, engraved curiouſly on Copper, contains the Title of the Poem, AN ESSAY ON WOMAN; A Motto, very ſuitable to a Work which is calculated to depreciate the Sex; A moſt obſcene PRINT, by Way of Decoration, under which is engraved in the *Greek* Language and Character, THE SAVIOUR

of the World. Beneath that Inſcription; ſomething too ſcandalous and defamatory of private Character, to endure a Repetition. And it is added, (with an Effrontery and ungentleman-like Scurrility, which I confeſs myſelf too dull to comprehend the Humour of) that there is alſo a Commentary, to which is affixed the Name of a Perſonage, one of the moſt diſtinguiſhed and eminent for Learning and Character, this Day in England.

Warburton

The Title is ſucceeded by a few Pages entitled, *Advertiſement* and *Deſign*, in which every Degree of Decency is renounced, in Order to prepare a welcome and familiar Reception to the fouleſt of all Language, and a Species of Impiety which is incredible:

To Expreſſions, throughout the whole Work, in every Page, and almoſt every Word of it, ſhameful and obſcene, without any Manner of Concealment or Reſerve:

To a moſt deſcriptive Repreſentation of the lewdeſt Thoughts in Nature:

To

To Scurrility beyond all Precedent: To Reflections upon the fair Sex, opprobrious, immodeſt, inſulting, and infinitely DEGRADING:

To Obſervations upon Animal Increaſe, ineffably impure, deſcending even to the Minuteneſs of a Deſcription truly brutal, of the Nudities of Beaſts and Reptiles; and this in a Stile and Language of ſo copious an Indelicacy, that the ſlender Share of Praiſe which the Luxuriancy of the Author's Imagination might expect, is taken from him by the Exceſs of his Impurity.

IN the Variations and Notes upon this obſcene Parody, the Holy Scriptures are illiberally proſtituted to illuſtrate the groſs Ideas of a libidinous Blaſphemer.

THE Prophaneneſs throughout the whole Work is of a ſhocking, new, and wonderful Invention. Many of the moſt ſerious and intereſting Paſſages of the Goſpel are diſhonoured to ſerve the low laſcivious Purpoſe of an impure DOUBLE ENTENDRE,

ENTENDRE, which I am perſuaded the Reader will excuſe me, if I do not defile my Pen with: More particularly; that pathetic Exclamation of Saint PAUL, *O Death where is thy Sting! O Grave where is thy Victory!* is impiouſly debaſed into a brutal Signification, at which infernal Angels might rejoice.

IN another of his horrid Elucidations, the natural Abilities of the Aſs are made the Subject of his unclean Deſcription, the blameleſs SCRIPTURE being ſtill hawled in to be reſponſible. Then with a Degree of Confidence unheard of in any Proteſtant Community, the unknowing Reader is informed, that "that Animal was once held in great "Eſteem, but that ſince he had been the Vehicle "of the GODHEAD into *Jeruſalem*, he was become "ridiculous."

To crown this united Effort of Obſcenity and Prophaneneſs; the Senſe of the *Univerſal Prayer*, written by Mr. *Pope*, is perverted to ſerve the vileſt

Purpoſe

Purpoſe of Unchaſtity; and that memorable Soliloquy of the Emperor *Adrian*, which Mr. *Pope* has conſidered in a Paraphraſe, as the Words of the *dying Chriſtian to his* SOUL, this ſhameleſs Author entitles without a Bluſh, *The Dying Lover to his* PUDENDA.

AND, as if he was determined experimentally to be convinced to what an Extravagancy of Inſult the Lenity of the Government, the Candor of the Public, and the Mercy of GOD himſelf may be abuſed, he boldly preſumes upon an inimitably prophane Paraphraſe of VENI CREATOR, which he ludicrouſly affects to call the *Maid's Prayer*.

HERE is the ſupreme Exertion of his original Abilities to blaſpheme. The holy Name and Attributes of the DEITY are vilified in an unexampled Manner; the BLESSED SPIRIT of God is ludibriouſly inſulted by a Repetition of the moſt carnal Obſcenities in the Form of a SUPPLICATION; and that ſacred Expreſſion, THRICE BLESSED GLORIOUS TRINITY, is compelled, by an

impious Similitude, to convey an Idea to the Reader, impure, aſtoniſhing, and horrible.

With this extreme Hyperbole of Lewdneſs and Impiety, behold an Affectation of Vivacity and Humour, the volatile, ſaline Effluvia of the unchaſte Imagination of a prurient Debauchee.

Is there that one Individual in the Kingdom ſo loſt to every Senſe of Goodneſs, as even to wiſh Encouragement and Succeſs to the Pen of this proſtituted Author? The Evil Genius of the Age? *If any, ſpeak; for him I have offended.*

Deliberately, and in a few Words I aſk, For what one valuable Conſideration upon Earth, would a ſerious or a good Man permit an Hour's Peruſal of this execrable Eſſay to his Children? I reaſon but from what I feel within my own Breaſt; for could I be perſuaded to believe that ſuch a Misfortune would probably happen to a Child of mine, I ſhould be the moſt afflicted Parent in the World.

Was

Was it actually poſſible that a Libel ſo injurious to all Ranks and Conditions of Men, to the good Government under which we live, and above all the bleſſed Religion which we profeſs, ſhould by ſo uncommon an Accident fall into my Hands, and that I could innocently promote by an unſeaſonable and paſſive Silence, the Impunity and the Succeſs of it? Such a Proceeding, under ſuch a Circumſtance, my own Heart aſſures would be criminal.

Would it not be an unſpeakable Difficulty to live under the perpetual Laſh of the blaſpheming Pen of a moſt obſcene Defamer, without Hope of Aid or Rédreſs from the Legiſlature? The natural Protectors of Diſcipline, the Guardians of Liberty, and of the Laws?

When Authority, human and divine, has loſt its Efficacy to perſuade, what are the moſt precious and intimate Connections in Nature? Where are the tender and the profeſſed Regards for the Honor and Intereſts of the Nation? Whither are

diſperſed

diſperſed the Thoughts of public Virtue, whilſt Juſtice eluded bears the Scales, and the Magiſtrate the Sword in vain!

If we, under the gracious Government of the moſt virtuous PRINCE in *Europe*, are to be miſerably expoſed to the Deſtroyers of every ſocial Virtue; if ONE MAN under Pretence of PRIVILEGE, is permitted to obtrude upon an abuſed NATION, what no one Printer, except himſelf, had ever the Confidence to undertake; If Perſonages of ſupreme DISTINCTION are to be characterized with an Indecency which is incapable of Controul; if Blaſphemies, which it were a happier Choice to loſe the Tongue than utter, are to be forced upon the PUBLICK with Impunity; farewel dear LIBERTY for ever! No Kingdom under the Sun will be ſo ſincerely to be pitied as GREAT BRITAIN, when the LAWS of her Country ſhall become a Prey to Libertines, and (O Grief of Griefs!) the RELIGION of it to Infidels!

FINIS.